

1996



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

PRESENTATION BY RICHARD J. CROSBY

MARCH 5, 1996

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THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS OF THE MEDALLION

Established 1909

This is a band of artists and lovers of the arts, of both sexes, who hope to encourage in the public a taste for small sculptures and especially for bas-relief. Designs are chosen by the Art Committee. Medals and other sculptures issued by the Circle go to members only, without charge beyond the annual dues. They are not offered publicly for sale. They are all bronze, unless a costlier medal is called for at an additional cost.

The Circle of Friends of the Medallion will include modern as well as old themes in its series of small sculptures and utter graceful comment upon things of the day through these creations of skillful hands. May it cast a two-fold influence! On the one hand may it call the attention of our sculptors and painters to a field scarcely considered by them, on the other, may it recall to the laymen an idea particularly needed in the present day of big empty art work,- that sculpture in small dimensions may be great, that the art is neither a matter of costliness, nor of size.

Members who wish to nominate friends, or desire extra copies of the medal to dispose of as gifts can address the Secretary, Charles de Kay, at the Arts Club, Gramercy Park, Manhattan, which for the present remains the headquarters of the Circle.

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## General Information:

During the quarter century just elapsed, the taste and demand for medals and small bas-reliefs have singularly grown. With time the sphere of this art has widened, so that the personal medallion and historical medal stand by no means apart and alone. There are medals that express sentiment and medals that celebrate inventions, medals for the festivals of family life as well as those that recall the dead. With what eagerness does not the historian seize on coin and medal to help him realize and visualize the men and women of the past! How important are they, as data for writers! And what would we not give for records in small bronze that tell of the founding of cities and empires which we recognize only through their miserable ends.

There is nothing, says John Evelyn in *A Discourse of Medals* (1697) in all this Tract of Time that has proved more lasting than these *Nummi Memorials* which we call *Medals*. "Nay, even the names as well as Actions of many famous Persons had been long since as unknown as if they had never been at all, but for these small pieces of Medal which seem to have broken and worn out the very Teeth of Time that devours and tears in pieces all things else."

What a wealth of facts otherwise forgot is stored in such books as those compiled from medals by Bizot and Van Loon!

Today we are growing sensitive to the change that with few exceptions our coins are ugly. The immediate need is that people educate their senses by owing and observing small sculpture. Bas-reliefs, medallions and such portable objects as are proper to the home. Bronze medals have a special beauty of their own which is only enhanced by a certain amount of handling. If designed by an artist who has a natural bent toward metallic art (and there are fewer of them one would expect) the bronze medal becomes a little gem of sculpture that charms not only the eye but the sense of touch.

Medallions and small reliefs are home bodies that live near us, on the library shelf and on the chamber wall, on the table or the what-not, sharing the intimacy of a favorite etching or much-thumbed book. Along with coins they offer engaging glimpses of the past, thus opening vistas into history and mythology.

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THE FIRST MEDAL issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan September of 1909 "Hudson-Fulton Celebration"

This medal is meant to recall the festivals by the State and City of New York sought to cherish the memory of two men whom we hold in honor-Henry Hudson the explorer, who first thoroughly examined for Holland the North River in his Dutch ship the Halve Mean, and Robert Fulton, artist, engineer and inventor, who first made the use of steam practical on water in his "steamboat" the Clermont. Hudson's name is as immortal as are the river itself and the land locked Polar sea in which, marooned by his mutinous crew, he perished of cold and hunger. Fulton's may be found in many places. This medal is one of several which commemorate Hudson and Fulton.

John Flannagan 1895-1952 was born in North Dakota. He was a noted sculptor and designer who designed many private medals and the Washington Quarter. This design symbolizes the present age of Electricity by the figure of a nymph recumbent on clouds. She gazes down upon two symbols of the ages of steam and sail craft, one of the Clermont, the other the Halve Mean. Past and present are knit together; three centuries are suggested in one small bronze.

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The Second Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan May of 1910 is in honor of the Home.

This medal was designed by the sculptor Isidore Konti of New York, has for its obverse a group of father and mother seated by the fireside, the father telling some tale to the eager maiden who leans against his knee, the mother listening as she contemplates the little son on her lap.

"Happiness of home and hearth" is a phrase well known to the Romans, who have left in their literature an imperishable record of the value in which they held the family, its unity and its sanctity. Isidore Konti has made for one side a beautiful composition of four figures. The reverse has an angel of peace and good will, blessing the house as she moves on high, bearing a palm in her hand; and the motto consists of six words from the famous lines by John Howard Payne, the poet of one song.

The obverse and reverse are examples of a somewhat rare and difficult thing, a medal of sentiment without sentimentality.

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The Third Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan March 1911. "SAINT BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR"

Brendan, son on Finnlug was born in Tralee on the western verge of Ireland in 484/486 and died 578.celebrated Celtic saint, monastic founder, abbot and hero of legendary voyages in the Atlantic Ocean became a early navigator was the first to bring to Europe information of islands in the West to which by a very natural error, eight centuries later, Columbus gave the name of India.

Mr. Mowbray-Clark, sculptor view Brendan as a man of action, the thinker, the dreamer. Attributes of ship and sea monster mark his famous exploits, the harp his devotion to the old keltic poetry. The spiritual passion which overlays the concrete facts of certain actual voyages has been symbolized on the reverse the soul of a man is figured by he traditional bird, while the glory behind the head of the aspirant suggests at one and the same time the sunset land and heaven, an idea by no means foreign to the myths of our redskins.

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The Fourth Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan May of 1911."ON MOTHERHOOD"

Designed by Victor D. Brenner, (1871-1924). He was born in Savly, Russia and came to the United States in 1890 and started business as a die cutter. He designed many medals & statutes privately any for the U.S. Mint.

The Motherhood medal shows a very charming spirit of material love on the obverse, and on the reverse a little figure nor without gaiety and gallantry- an angel or Puck astride of cloud, trumpeting the name of the newly-borne to the four quaters of the earth. Space is left for an inscription blazoning that name.

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The Fifth Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan November 1911. "Motier de la Fayette"

Designed by Jules E. Roine 1857-1916 French sculptor and medallist. He immigrated to New York in 1887 and designed many medals and coins privately and for the U.S. Mint.

The obverse shows Liberty striding forward; the figures in the clouds tell of the influence exerted by our revolution upon that of France; the smoke indicates the chaos that accompanied the latter. Liberty carries the flags of the new Republic and the French Monarchy. Preceded by the American eagle, she is sending her cry of welcome across the sea. Marquis de Lafayette (1778-1825) French noble who fought with the American colonists against the British in the American Revolution; by allying with the revolutionary bourgeoisie, he became one of the most powerful men in France during the first two years of the French Revolution.

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The Sixth Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan June of 1912. "Charles Dickens, Reformer"

Designed by John S. Conway, of Tenafly, N.J. Obverse is a likeness of Dickens in his later years as he looked from his return from America in the 1860's. The reverse shows Bob Cratchitt carrying Tiny Tim on his shoulder in triumph to the Christmas dinner.

Charles Dickens 1812-1870 born in Portsmouth, Hampshire is generally regarded as the greatest English novelist. Much of his work appeals to all intellectual and social strata and retains its popularity to the present. Long noted as one of the most varied and imaginative comic writers in English. Dickens also came to be recognized for his social criticism-increasing complex, sometimes profound largely sombre, but usually compassionate.

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The Seventh Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan November 1912. "Abdul Bahl- An Apostle of Peace"

Original name Allah Baha (1817-1892) born in Acre, Palestine. Muslim religious leader and founder of the Bahai faith upon his manifestation of the unknowable God. Name was changed to Baha, Allah developed the formerly provincial Bahai doctrine into a comprehensive teaching advocating the unity off all religions and the universal brotherhood of man. Emphaszing social ethics, he eschewed ritual worship and devoted himself to the aboltion of racial class and religious prejudices. His place of confinement in Acre became a center of pilgrimage for Bahai belivers from Persia to thr U.S.

Sculptor Louis Potter, of New York, The figure in Oriental robes on th reverse represents the cardinal spirit of love that brings peace to mankind and leads to the unity of all faiths. "LOVE-PEACE-UNITY"

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The Eighth Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan June of 1913. "The Ocean"

Mr. Sigurd Neandross an American sculptor born of Norwegian parents on the Pacific Ocean. His grandfather was a shipbuilder in San Francisco who lived in a house on the shore near the Golden Gate which he adapted rom a stanard bark. No one could be better prepared by ancestry and place of birth to undertake to solve the problem how to condence than endless theme, the ocean, into bits of sculptural relief a few inches wide.

On one side of this medallion the sculptor has personified the movement and well-spring of life in water, not unmindful of Pinder's opening line: "Chief of all elements is water"; on the other he has symbolized by a stern implacable face emerging from clouds on the horizon the unbending forces of Nature, the eternal interplay of sky and sea, which yet allows of lavish seagrowths and does not fail to cherish the nautilus, most fragile of things. Round about runs a design taken from a fossil seaform.

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The Ninth Medal issued by Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan December 1913. "John Charles Fremont"

John C. Fremont (1813-1890) born in Georgia, educated in South Carolina and the son of a Virginian mother and died in New York. He was an explorer of the passes of the Rocky Mountains, virtual deliverer of California from the Mexicans, and former Governor and Senator from California prior to being nominated for the Presidency in 1856 just before the civil war by the new born Republican party.

Obverse shows Fremont in his early fifties when he was senator from California. The Reverse shows the winged figure of victory as the symbol of California.

Medal was designed by Mr. Rene Theophile de Quelin a native of Nates in Brittany. Came to New York in 1881 became an assistant to Augustus Saint Gaudens and later on worked as manager of the decorating section of Tiffany Studios in New York.

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The Tenth Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan June of 1914. "Peace for One Hundred Years"

Designed by Mr. John Mowbray-Clarke who also designed the medallion in honor of Saint Brendan.

Obverse shows two kingsmen locked in a struggle for supremacy, like wrestlers waiting for a chance, and between them a couple men-of-war under sail are seen far off in a blur of smoke. The war between Great Britain and the United States one hundred years ago is symbolized by the two athletes, the inscriptions reading: "the last war between brothers" and below "at the expense of the friends of the Medallion." This medal inscribed on the reverse "Peace for 100 years," is issued to celebrate the harmony which reigns among English speaking people in all parts of the world.

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The Eleventh Medal issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan in December of 1914. "New Netherland"

Sculptor is Paul Manship (1885-1966) Born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Member of the National Scutptor Society, American Academy of Arts & Letters, National Academy of Fine Arts, and others. Awarded many medals for his sculptures. Designed the official Inaugural medal of Franklin D. Roosevelt (obverse & reverse) in 1933.

Obverse is the good ship New Netherland which brought the first substantial reinforcement of settlers to the colony in 1623. A Hollander and a Manhattan Indian smoke the peace pipe; the beaver, looking like the engravings on wood of that small but valued beast which we find in the Dutch books of the period, represents the chief article of commerce in the early days and one of the first coat-of-arms of the city.

Reverse is the fiure of New York, a lusty brawny dame who toys with a "skyscraper" like a daughter of the giants in a Norse poem, lending a touch of humor to the medallion.

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The Twelth Medal issued by Circle of Friends of the Medallion in Manhattan for the year ending June 30, 1915. "Joan of Arc" 1411-1431 Born & died in France. Joan is a beatfied, not a canonized sain in the hagiology of the Roman Catholic Church.

Designed by Mr. Allen G. Newman, a young sculptor who has won distinction for monuments and tablets in relief.

Obverse shows the head and shoulders of Joan; she wears no helmet on her flowing hair but has the corslet. She is about to raise toward her lips the hilt of the old sword found behind the altar of St. Catharine of Fierbois and looks upon it, as the symbol of the cross with prophetic gaze as if she saw beyond the crowning of the king her own unhappy fate. The legend in Latin reads: Beata Joanna d'Arc. Christi Miles -"Soldier of Christ."

Reverse shows a figure embodying France on one knee, bowed in sorrow over a shield, which she sustains, bearing the coat of arms granted to the family of Jaque d'Arc by Charles VII. Though Joan never used it, her brothers and their descendents kept this shield bright in the many wars that followed during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The legend in French is: Pour l'honneur de la France.

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# LAPEL PINS

PRESENTED TO THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 1996  
BY RICHARD J. CROSBY

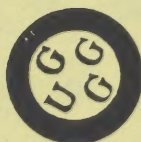
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According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the English Language the word "lapel" is either the front parts of a coat, jacket, etc. folded back on the chest and forming a continuation of the collar.

The three lettered word "PIN" again according to Webster's Dictionary has over 14 different definitions and the ones I think are the most appropriate are:

- 1) A peg of wood, metal etc. used for fastening or holding things together, as a support on which to hang things etc.
- 2) A little piece of stiff wire with a pointed end and flattened or rounded head for fastening things together.
- 3) A pointed instrument for holding the hair, a hat etc. in place.
- 4) An ornate badge or emblem having a pin or clasp with which it is fastened to the clothing.

The use of some form of badges or pins as we think of them today existed before the time of Christ. Collectors should be familiar with the following terms associated with this field.





**INSIGNIA'S** were used for badges, emblems or other distinguishing marks such as a rank, membership, etc.

**BADGE'S** are a distinctive token, emblem or sign worn to show rank, membership, achievement, etc.

**EMBLEM** is a visible symbol of a thing, idea, class of people, etc. or as an object of representation that stands for or suggests something else such as a sign, badge or device.

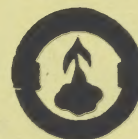
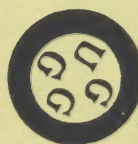
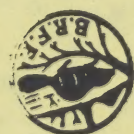
**DEVICE** is a mechanical invention or contrivance for specific purpose; or as a design often with a motto, or a coat of arms; heraldic emblem.

**MOTTO** a word, phrase, or sentence chosen as expressive of the goals or ideals of a nation, group, etc. and inscribed or marked on a seal, banner coin etc.

**SEAL** a design, initial or other device placed on a letter, document, etc. as a mark of genuineness or authority.

**BANNER** is a piece of cloth bearing a design, motto, slogan etc. sometimes attached to a staff and used as a battle standard.

**SLOGAN** is a catchword or rallying motto distinctly associated with a political party or other group; or a catch phrase used to advertise a product.





The manufacturing and the wearing of lapel pins for the past 100 years has been very popular for both sexes. The wearing of these small and colorful pins provided a means for a person to identify to others something significant about their life without a word being spoken. Listed below are some of the many different ways that lapel pins can be classified.

- A. Job or type of work
- B. Political party affiliation
- C. Masonic & Fraternal Organizations
- D. Church & Religious Groups
- E. Recognition of achievement
- F. Region or town
- G. Causes & Movements
- H. Schools, Universities & Societies
- I. Military & Federal Government
- J. Sports & Athletic events
- K. Associations & Scouting

I personally became interested with pins over 15 years ago. I did not seriously go looking for them for about the last 10 years. What fascinated me the most about collecting lapel pins were their beauty, meaningfulness, historical reasons and the vast amount seen in my travels to antique shops and flea markets. Most persons who have them for sale in the flea markets can furnish you with some information and background which is important to the collector. Best places for me to find lapel pins are at antique shops, & shows & flea markets. I did make a major purchase about 5 years ago in acquiring 7 mixed lots in one of Kurt Kruger's Auction sales. Naturally he had no information available about the lot and only the number of pins in each lot. Total number of pins acquired was over 600. In my collecting of the pins I have run across only several collectors who are interested in one or several areas only. There are no specific reference books or collectors organizations. The value of the pins can be anywhere from Quarter & up to \$200.00 The important thing to know when looking at pins is its condition, is it complete? The significance of the pin etc.



My collection are housed in the 5 albums contains over 1500 different lapel pins. I probably have another 500 that are not put up or classified. All the pins are mounted in the small 1 ½" by 1 ½" cardboard coin holders with a small piece of felt cut to the size of the hole and mounted on the back of the holder to protect the screw pin and the plastic from tearing. The cardboard holders are then put into a 30 pocket vinyl page. Each page is arranged by the main classification and inserted into a heavy duty 3 ring binder. Additional space is left at the end of each classification to add new pins to the collection. I have attempted to identify and label each pin the best I can and to spell out the various abbreviations on the pin.

Many pins could be listed in more than one classification.

#### Album # 1

Agriculture (13)  
 Associations & Organizations (65)  
 Aviation (29)  
 Automobiles & related (53)  
 Cities & Towns (29)  
 Communications (14)  
 Education & schools (68)  
 TOTALS \*\*\*\*\* (271)

#### Album # 2

Fraternal - Misc. (53)  
 Fraternal - Lions & IOOF (23)  
 Fraternal - JOUAM & Misc. (25)  
 Fraternal - Elks, Moose, Eagles  
                     Am. Legion (79)  
 Fraternal- KP, KT & Misc. (71)  
 Post Office (10)  
 Firemen's (120)  
 Gas & Oil (11)  
 Banking & Real Estate (9)  
 Government Agencies (34)  
 Horses & Racing (28)  
 TOTALS \*\*\*\*\* (355)





Album # 3  
 Hospital & Nursing (48)  
 Blood Donors (9)  
 Charitable Organizations (12)  
 Labor Unions (114)  
 Masonic -all types (85)  
 Music (16)  
 TOTALS \*\*\*\*\* (284)

Album # 4  
 Insurance (20)  
 Military & Patriotic (140)  
 N.R.A. (9)  
 Products & Businesses (131)  
 TOTALS \*\*\*\*\* (300)

ALBUM # 5  
 Political (13)  
 Safety Awards (6)  
 Red Cross (29)  
 Religious (51)  
 Scouting (19)  
 Expositions & Fairs (8)  
 Sports (42)  
 Trains & Railroads (39)  
 Women's Organizations (23)  
 Misc-not classified (82)  
 TOTALS \*\*\*\* (312)

As you can see this is an interesting hobby and I have had lots of fund  
 searching a collecting lapel pins.

